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MORE WORKERS FOR CZECH COAL MINES

The Czechoslovak government has succeeded in recruiting more manpower for. the coal mines. In addition to the regular salaries, which have been increased considerably, miners get loyalty bonuses if they have worked uninterruptedly in a mine for at least one year. It is reported that 620 million crowns have been paid this year to promote morale in the mines. Coal areas are well provided with consumers' goods and miners obtain supplies on a privileged basis. Coal miners get the longest paid vacations of all industrial workers. It is estimated that 11,300 new apprentices and about 350 girls are entering the coal mines [in 1950]. The apprentice schools already have 12,000 beds for apprentices.

If the 1950 coal production plan is surpassed, it will be only because the mines have been mechanized, working hours have been prolonged, and work is again being done on Sunday. Among all the coal regions, Ostrava has made the greatest production increase this year. However, labor productivity has not increased. On the average, the work output per miner has dropped by one percent, and new work norms are being considered. The new norms will be in effect at least until the end of 1951.

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